



News Release

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REBUILD IDAHO ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAN **TO HELP CUT COUNCIL SCHOOL DISTRICT ENERGY COSTS**

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The Council School District is poised to take the first step in a quantum energy conservation and technology leap that will use biomass such as waste forest wood slash to heat the District's high school facility, Rebuild Idaho officials with the Idaho Energy Division announced today.

The School Districted received today a \$386,000 "Fuels for Schools" grant from the U.S. Forest Service. The grant will help to pay for the installation this summer of a new wood-fired steam-heat boiler in the Districts High School. It will replace a half-century old oil-fired boiler that has been condemned.

Idaho Senator Larry Craig headed a delegation of state and Federal officials in Council today to present the District with the Fuels for Schools grant. Idaho is one of only five states in the nation benefiting from the Fuels for Schools program.

The program involves using small diameter trees being thinned from dense, unhealthy forests. The trees then are ground up into chips that can be hauled to schools equipped with the new biomass boilers and used for fuel.

A similar system in the Darby, Montana school district is expected to cut that District's annual heating bill by up to 70 percent.

State energy conservation experts expect the new boiler in Council to deliver similar results. However, they point to the fact that the boiler is just the proverbial tip of the iceberg in a wide-ranging energy conservation plan for the District organized through the Energy Division's Rebuild Idaho partnership program.

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That plan, if fully implemented, would involve a variety of energy conservation changes such as lighting, windows, automated controls, etc., could eventually save the school District upwards of \$800,000 in avoided utility costs over the next 15 years, said Sue Seifert, Rebuild Idaho program manager.

“The Rebuild Idaho Program is specifically designed to help Idaho communities, school districts, universities and colleges in developing sound long-term energy and resource use planning processes and strategies that can bring about real energy savings and economic development. The Council project is a wonderful example of how the Rebuild Idaho partnership works,” Seifert added.

Council School District Superintendent Murray Dalglish first contacted the Rebuild Idaho program last year about forming a partnership to identify ways the rural District could save on its energy costs while improving the comfort and quality of the students’ school environment.

Under the Partnership, Siemens was selected to do a complete energy performance audit of the Council School District to identify those areas where energy conservation strategies could be employed.

“We believe the energy conservation improvements that can be done in the Council project, starting with this new high-tech boiler, will easily make it a showcase site for the use of new technology to save both energy and energy costs,” said David Naccarato, of Siemens Building Technology, whose company is handling the project.

For more information on the Rebuild Idaho program, contact Seifert at (208) 327-7973 or visit the Rebuild Idaho web site at www.idwr.state.id.us/energy/rebuild.